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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,438	09/30/2003	James K. Ward	12761US02	5629
7590 07/08/2005 McAndrew, Held & Malloy, Ltd. 34th Floor 500 W. Madison Street Chicago, IL 60661			EXAMINER OSELE, MARK A	
			ART UNIT 1734	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/675,438

Applicant(s)

WARD ET AL.

Examiner

Mark A. Osele

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 4-14 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wheeler et al. in view of Kataoka and Erickson. Wheeler et al. shows an apparatus for forming a butt splice comprising: means, 48, for securing a portion of the web from the new roll against an anvil, 44; means, 88, for positively traversing a shear wheel assembly, 82 or 84, across a portion of the secured new roll of material wherein a rotary cutter, 92, trims the material along a cutting edge, 46, of the anvil; means, 58 or 60, for adhering a first piece of tape, 69, to a portion of the new roll of material extending beyond the trimmed leading edge; means, 48, for securing a portion of the web of the expiring roll against the anvil; means, 88, for positively traversing a shear wheel assembly, 82 or 84, across a portion of the secured expiring roll of material wherein a rotary cutter, 92, trims the material along a cutting edge of the anvil; means for adhering the trimmed trailing end of the expiring roll to the downstream portion of the first piece of tape; and means for releasing the new roll and the expiring roll from the anvil. Wheeler et al. fails to show the shear wheel to be positively rotated.

Kataoka shows a splicing apparatus wherein a wheel moving against the edge of anvil is rotated to cut the web in preparation for splicing (column 3, lines 1-11). Erickson shows a web preparation apparatus for a splicing process wherein a tape cutter is positively rotated (paragraph 0076). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to positively rotate the cutting blade of Wheeler et al. because Kataoka shows rotated cutting blades to be known for cutting a web in a splicing apparatus and Erickson teaches that driven cutting wheels are more effective than non-driven cutting wheels.

Regarding claim 3, Wheeler et al. also shows means for adhering a second piece of tape to the spliced joint on the side of the webs opposite to the first piece of tape (column 2, lines 58-63).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 4-14 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art, either alone or in combination suggest a splicing apparatus wherein the cutting wheel has a cable wrapped around it so as to positively rotate the cutting wheel. Ryan, Page, and Wright each show a cable for driving a cutting wheel or blade across the width of a web but none of the cables are wrapped around a cutting wheel. Erickson shows a drive belt to rotate a cutting wheel but not a cable threaded according to the limitations of the amended claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

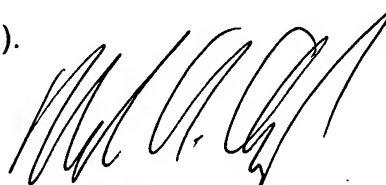
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Dylla et al. shows a positively rotated cutting wheel for cutting the layers of scrap web prior to splicing (column 6, lines 14-19).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Osele whose telephone number is 571-272-1235. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Fiorilla can be reached on 571-272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MARK A. OSELE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

July 7, 2005